

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE
FOR
1903-04.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

1. The year was not marked by any events of grave political importance. The conduct of the trans-border tribes was generally satisfactory, and no necessity arose for the employment of armed force against any tribe or section. In Dir conditions were at one time critical owing to the state of health of the Nawab. His death would have undoubtedly precipitated the conflict for succession, which it is feared must eventually come between his two sons, and an internal war raging in Dir would almost certainly endanger the safety of the Chitral road and compel the interference of Government. In addition to this the apathetic attitude of the Nawab towards the exactions of his revenue collectors from the vassal tribesmen on the left bank of the Swat River threatened at one time to lead to a disruption of his State. The danger has been averted, but is not altogether past. In the Khyber the Afridis continue to coquet with Afghan authorities. A telegraph line up to Landi Kotal was successfully completed, and considerable progress was made in the widening of the Mullagori road.

In the Kurram the Mastu Khel, a section of the Gar Massuzai Orakzai tribe, provided the only disturbing element. This section considers itself aggrieved both in the matter of the settlement made with it after the expedition of 1897 and in the distribution of the Massuzai allowances. It has so far maintained a recalcitrant attitude and signified its resentment by raids and kidnappings in the Kurram. In the Peshawar District affairs have been quiet, and the Cantonment continued to enjoy a practically complete immunity from outrages, and violent crime; but the Kohat District suffered from the depredations of a gang of outlaws who have found a refuge in Khost in Afghan territory. In Waziristan the satisfactory state of affairs, due to the punitive measures noted in last year's report, has been maintained, and the resettlement of the Daur Valley in the Tochi Agency was successfully effected. Among the Mahsuds a re-distribution and re-arrangement of the allowances granted to them in 1902 allayed the friction which at one time seemed likely to arise between the old headmen and the ordinary members of the tribe.

	PAGE		PAGE
CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION—concluded.		CHAPTER V.—Revenue and Finance.	
6. REGISTRATION—		A. GROSS REVENUE	29
General	17	B. IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE	ib.
Finance	ib.	C. LOCAL FUNDS—	
7. DISTRICT AND LOCAL BOARDS—		<i>Incorporated Local Funds—</i>	
Constitution	ib.	District Funds	30
Meetings	18	Patwaris' Fees Funds	ib.
Working	ib.	Khewra and Zira Jungles Fund	31
Finance	ib.	Karawa Cess Fund	ib.
8. MUNICIPALITIES—		Copying Agency Funds	ib.
Constitution	ib.	<i>Excluded Local Funds—</i>	
Meetings	ib.	Cantonment Funds	ib.
Finance	ib.	Town and Bazar Fund	32
Receipts, octroi	ib.	Police Funds	ib.
Other taxation	ib.	Public Works Funds	ib.
Sources of income other than taxation	ib.	Agror Accumulation Fund	ib.
Expenditure	ib.	Famine Fund	33
9. MILITARY	ib.	<i>Municipal Funds</i>	ib.
—		—	
CHAPTER IV.—Production and Distribution.		CHAPTER VI.—Vital Statistics and Medical Service.	
1. AGRICULTURE—		1. BIRTHS AND DEATHS—	
General	19	Births and deaths	35
2. WEATHER AND CROPS—		Diseases	ib.
<i>Seasons, Harvests and Crops—</i>		Cholera	ib.
Kharif	ib.	Plague	ib.
Rabi	ib.	Fever	ib.
Produce	20		
Outturn	ib.	2. MEDICAL RELIEF—	
3. HORTICULTURE	ib.	Number of dispensaries	36
4. FORESTS—		Attendance	ib.
Area and classification: the Hazara Forest		Operations	ib.
Division	ib.	Finance	ib.
Other forest areas	21	Mission Hospitals	ib.
Forest settlements and surveys	ib.	3. SANITATION	ib.
Working plans	ib.	4. VACCINATION—	
Communications and buildings	ib.	Staff	ib.
Forest offences	ib.	Work	37
Protection from fire	ib.	Cost of the Department	ib.
Regulation of grazing	22		
Growth	ib.	—	
Experiments	ib.		
Outturn of forest produce	ib.		
Feelings	ib.		
Finance	ib.		
5. MINES AND QUARRIES—			
<i>Kohat Salt Mines—</i>			
Sales	ib.		
System of issue	ib.		
6. MANUFACTURES—			
Factories	ib.		
7. TRADE—			
General	23	1. EDUCATION—	
Registration posts and routes	ib.	General	39
Volume of trade	ib.	Variation by district, caste, &c.	ib.
Bajour	ib.	Expenditure	ib.
Afghanistan	24	Local Management: District Boards	ib.
Kashmir	ib.	Municipalities	ib.
Tirah	ib.	Collegiate education	ib.
Buner	ib.	Secondary education	ib.
8. PUBLIC WORKS—		Primary education	ib.
<i>Dera Ismail Khan—</i>		Female education	ib.
Chief works begun, continued or completed		2. LITERATURE AND THE PRESS	ib.
during the year	25		
Wana Agency	ib.	—	
Bannu District	ib.		
Tochi Agency	ib.		
Kohat District	ib.		
Kurram Agency	ib.		
Peshawar District	26		
Khyber Agency	ib.		
Hazara District	ib.		
Miscellaneous public improvements	ib.		
Contribution works	ib.		
9. IRRIGATION—			
Swat River Canal	ib.		
Kabul River Canal	27		
Scheduled Canals of the Peshawar District	ib.		
Dera Ismail Khan Hill torrents	ib.		
—			
CHAPTER VII.—Instruction.		CHAPTER VIII.—Archaeology.	
1. EDUCATION—		Adh-i-Samudh	41
General		Akra Mound	ib.
Variation by district, caste, &c.		Preservation of mounds	ib.
Expenditure		Ruins of Kafirkot	ib.
Local Management: District Boards			
Municipalities			
Collegiate education			
Secondary education			
Primary education			
Female education			
2. LITERATURE AND THE PRESS			
—			
CHAPTER IX.—Miscellaneous.			
1. PROVINCIAL CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT—			
Horse, pony and mule breeding	43		
Horse fair	ib.		
Cattle	ib.		
Veterinary Hospitals	ib.		

MAP.

Map of the North-West Frontier Province In Pocket.

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Frontier Militia
Corps, &c.

2. The policy of withdrawing Military garrisons from the trans-frontier Agencies has been further carried into effect. Kajuri Kach and Nili Kach in Wana and Miranshah in Tochi are now the only posts held by Military garrisons. The four Militia Corps and the Samana Rifles were re-armed during the year with Martini-Henry rifles Mark II, and the experiment of trusting these Corps with a superior class of weapon has so far proved successful. Reports on all these Corps have been very satisfactory, and local tribesmen, who in places somewhat held back at first, are now competing for enlistment. In Chitral a scheme has been inaugurated for utilizing the feudal tenure of the country to create a Corps of Scouts trained and embodied on the lines of British Militia. Owing largely to the loyal co-operation of the Mehtar of Chitral, who has been appointed Honorary Commandant, the scheme shows every prospect of success. The Border Military Police Corps continue the improvement which resulted from the abolition of the silladari system. The Peshawar Border Military Police especially did good work in the recovery of stolen Lee-Enfield rifles.

Ordinary rela-
tions with
Afghanistan.

3. A British-Afghan Joint Commission was occupied during the greater portion of the year in deciding cases arising from the raids and counter-raids committed upon each other by British and Afghan subjects. The area of the jurisdiction of the Commission extended from the Kurram to the Wana Agency, and though its findings resulted practically in a balancing of accounts, there can be no doubt that this proof of Afghan acquiescence in the boundaries demarcated in 1891 and of the friendly relations existing between the two powers made a great impression on the tribesmen. Preparations were made for the despatch of a Commission from Peshawar to demarcate the boundary between India and Afghanistan in the Khyber and Mohmand country. The arrival of the hot weather, however, before the completion of arrangements with Afghanistan compelled the postponement of the Commission. Some trouble has been experienced from the unfriendly attitude of the Amir's frontier officials. The Sarhang of Dakka continues his intrigues with the Zakka Khel Afridis, and manifested a distinctly unfriendly spirit in his action at Shinpokh and Smatzai. The Governor of Khost must be aware of the presence within his jurisdiction of the gang of outlaws which is troubling the Kohat District. Though the incident belongs properly to the present year, it may be noted here that one of the leaders of this gang has lately been arrested by the Kohat Border Military Police.

Condition of the
people.

4. The condition of the people generally in the settled districts was better than that of the preceding year. The harvests were plentiful, especially in the settled districts, and prices ruled easy. Across the administrative border the crops were poor, and for the first time for many years there was a large export of grain to these regions. The decrease in their crop outturn, however, scarcely affected the trans-border tribesmen, who were enabled to take employment on the various works in progress throughout the Province and elsewhere, and who have always open to them service both in the Regular Army and in the Frontier Militia and Border Military Police Corps.

Realisation of
the revenue.

5. As noted in last year's Report, the Pathan generally regards the revenue demand as an inconvenient obligation to be evaded as long as possible,

and the number of coercive processes issued was therefore practically the same as before. Nevertheless, owing to increased prosperity, the revenue was generally realized more promptly than in the previous year, and the arrears left uncollected were considerably less. Good harvests in the Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan districts enabled large recoveries to be made, and without undue pressure the outstanding balance was materially reduced. The advantages afforded by the Land Improvement and Agriculturists Loans Acts are beginning to be perceived more widely by the people, and the amount taken by them in loan under these Acts was nearly double that of the previous year. At the same time good progress was made in the recovery of such loans as fell due, and the balance outstanding from the previous year was considerably reduced.

6. Settlements were already in progress or were begun during the year ~~Settlements.~~ in all districts of the Province except Peshawar. The settlement of the Daur Valley in Tochi was brought into effect from the autumn of 1903, and resulted in raising the demand from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 36,000. Preparations are in train for a re-settlement of the Kurram Valley on the 1st April. Owing to the difficulties consequent on the mountainous nature of the country the settlement operations in the Hazara District have not proceeded with the celerity anticipated, but work in a portion of Kohat and in the greater part of Dera Ismail Khan has been completed. In the Dera Ismail Khan District, owing to the insecurity of agriculture, the system of fluctuating assessments has been extended to the entire district, and the new assessments introduced during the year in the Tank Tahsil and Indus Valley are purely fluctuating. The elasticity of demand secured by the system is fully appreciated by the people.

7. In the non-Pathan district of Hazara, where tribal custom is not so ~~Revenue and~~ clearly defined, and where the proportion of land held by occupancy ~~Rent paying~~ tenants ^{classes.} and tenants-at-will is very large, the present settlement has led to a large number of claims for occupancy rights. The growing tendency of the land to pass into the possession of the money-lending classes has led to the decision to apply the Punjab Land Alienation Act with certain modifications to the Bannu, Hazara and Dera Ismail Khan districts. The actual application, however, did not take effect during the year.

8. The Police returns of the year show a decrease of 454 cases ~~com-~~ ^{Police.} compared with the previous year. There has been especially a very marked decrease in crime of a serious nature, and the number of murders is the lowest recorded since the Province came into existence. To this decrease in crime has contributed the general quiet prevailing across the border, where the state of affairs is in most cases actually reflected in the Police returns of the adjoining districts. When a tribe is in an unsatisfactory state or a gang of outlaws is committing depredations in British territory, not only do the raids by these help to swell the list of crime, but in many cases advantage is taken by local bad characters to commit outrages in the expectation, which is very often successful, that these offences will be credited to the offending tribe or to the gang of outlaws. In the recruitment of local men of good class the Police Department has been unable to compete with the Army and Frontier Irregular Corps, to both of which

superior prospects and pay attract the best material. As a consequence the Police Department is forced to accept recruits of an inferior stamp, and the question of enlistment has reached an acute stage.

Criminal Justice.

9. The diminution in crime of a serious nature was again noticeable. The work of criminal courts was kept well up to date, and there was an increase in the percentage both of cases returned as true and of convictions. The percentage of complaints summarily dismissed as false or frivolous showed a considerable increase, and there can be no doubt that treatment of this kind, coupled with compensation to the accused when the Court has been misled to admit the case for trial, is the only method by which abuse of the criminal courts can be prevented. The powers of enhancement entrusted to appellate courts have resulted in checking speculative appeals, and the number of appeals lodged was considerably below that of the previous year. The question of the indiscriminate use of the provisions of the law as to security is receiving more attention, and greater care is being exercised both as to the persons placed under security and the sureties furnished by them.

Prisons.

10. The punitive measures of the previous year were accountable for some overcrowding in the gaols of the Derajat, as the pressure brought to bear on the tribes resulted in the surrender of a large number of outlaws and persons accused of crimes. But overcrowding was not altogether confined to these gaols. Arrangements were made as far as possible to minimise the evil by transfer, but so long as it is necessary to make arrests on a large scale by way of reprisals for raids and outrages, the gaols will always be liable to be overcrowded at times by the introduction of large numbers of political prisoners. No evil results, however, were occasioned by the extra strain imposed on the gaol staff and accommodation. There were no escapes from custody and the health of the prisoners did not suffer. The death-rate among prisoners was in fact little over half that of the ordinary population of the Province. The outturn of articles manufactured in the gaols, though considerably larger than in the previous year, was still, for the reasons noticed before, comparatively small.

Civil Justice.

11. The litigation in the Province is mostly of a petty nature; in over two-thirds of the suits instituted in 1903 the value of the property at stake did not exceed fifty rupees. The decrease in the number of suits relating to marriage has been satisfactorily maintained; but though the same condition was observed in suits for pre-emption throughout the other districts, a large number of institutions in Peshawar raised the provincial total to slightly above the average. The general working of all Courts, both original and appellate, was again distinctly in advance of the previous year. The average duration of suits was less and the number of appeals fewer. The number of suits lodged was in excess of that of the previous year, but this is to a certain extent attributable to the settlement operations which are now in progress in four of the districts.

Registration.

12. More than half of the registration work of the Province has been confined to the Peshawar District. Although owing to the rise in the value of land transfers are frequent in Peshawar, it is to be noticed that these take place mainly among the agricultural classes themselves, and that there are no signs of these being ousted by the money-lending classes. This fact, combined with the

feeling in favour of freedom of transfer allowed by local usage, has rendered it unnecessary and unadvisable to apply the Punjab Land Alienation Act to Peshawar and Kohat, at any rate for the present.

13. Since the reduction of the Bannu District by the separation of the ^{District and Local Boards.} Isa Khel and Mianwali tahsils, it has been found that the only two Local Boards in the Province, those of Bannu and Marwat, were unnecessary and unprofitable, and these have been abolished. The unsuitability to popular wants of the system of election in the Haripur and Abbottabad District Boards was noticed last year, and the abolition of the system has now been sanctioned. In regard to actual assistance in the working of District Boards the non-official members continue to display the same apathy as before except perhaps in questions where their individual private interests are concerned.

14. Although the attendance at Municipal meetings showed a satisfactory average, the actual assistance in Municipal Administration rendered by the non-official members was more or less on a par with that of the previous year. With improved harvests and trade the income of Municipalities has increased, and the financial affairs of all are in a very satisfactory condition. Increased attention is being given to sanitary conditions, and considerable sums have been expended on drainage and water-supply.

15. The disregard by the Pathan of any system of economic cultivation ^{Agriculture.} has been previously noticed. In the trans-border tracts, where cultivation is more or less independent of the actual rainfall and irrigation is supplied from springs and hill streams, a less favourable condition of water-supply in the small torrents fed from melting snows has had immediate direct results, and in parts has compelled the import of grain from the settled districts. In the plains the conditions have been more favourable; the area under cultivation has been extended, and the average of the harvests has been better. An extension of the Kabul River Canal in the Peshawar District is expected to bring under cultivation ten to twelve thousand acres now lying waste. In the Province the area is limited within which wells can profitably be sunk, but in the Kohat District, owing to a judicious distribution of State loans, new wells are being constructed wherever possible. In the Indus Valley portion of the Dera Ismail Khan District there has been a similar rapid extension, which has been encouraged by the rates of revenue imposed upon well lands in the recent settlement.

16. The copious rain in August 1902 enabled a large area to be sown for ^{Weather and Crops.} the rabi harvest. Prolonged drought during the winter caused great anxiety, but partial rains at the end of January and a general heavy rainfall in March and April not only averted all prospect of scarcity, but resulted in a crop above the average. The monsoon rains of 1903 began favourably, and an unusually large area was sown, but the undue cessation of rain in August considerably reduced the outturn of the autumn crop, and caused a large area of failure. On the whole, however, the autumn crop was up to the average. Although the price of grain was high, fodder was abundant, and the cattle were reported to be in better condition than they had been in any year since 1896.

17. The only reserved Government forests are those in the Hazara Forests. District. Last year the revenue derived from these forests amounted to nearly

a lakh of rupees, which is the largest income that has so far been recorded from this source. This rise in revenue is due partly to the increased demand for timber and to improved facilities for export, but is mainly to be attributed to the prohibition of the export for sale of timber from village reservations. The exploitation and consequent deforestation of their own wastes by villagers led to the actual impoverishment of the people themselves, who, owing to the excessive supply, obtained for their timber wholly inadequate prices, and were subsequently unable to procure wood for their own requirements. The outside demand for timber is now met in a legitimate way from Government forests, and in the interests of the people themselves revised rules have been sanctioned for the management and utilization of village wastes.

Trade.

18. Owing to the improvements in communication effected by the opening of the Garhi Habibulla-Domel road from Abbottabad the trade with Kashmir was more than double that of the previous year. Indifferent harvests and a consequent reduction of purchasing power resulted in a reduction of the exports to trans-border regions, although the tribesmen were in some cases obliged to make considerable purchases of grain to supplement the deficiency in their own harvests. The harvests in Afghanistan were distinctly below the average, and the inhabitants of the settled districts were thus enabled to dispose of their surplus grain to advantage. The returns of trade with Afghanistan showed an increase both of export and import. Much of this is doubtless due to the security now afforded to traders passing through the Gomal Pass, but the rest can be attributed to the more enlightened fiscal policy of the present Amir.

Public Works.

19. The total expenditure on buildings and communications amounted to nearly twenty-one lakhs of rupees, of which slightly over four lakhs were spent on buildings. The new buildings necessitated by the creation of the Province have been practically completed, and little remains to be done. The official residences in Peshawar were occupied during the winter. The continuation of the policy of the withdrawal of troops has necessitated the building of new posts and the alteration of others in Northern and Southern Waziristan. The bridges over the Kharmana in Kurram and the Dore in Abbottabad were completed. The metalling is being steadily carried on of the road from Abbottabad to the Kashmir border near Domel. The camel road to Landi Kotal through the Mullagori country was completed, and the work of widening it into a cart road is well advanced. Work on the road between Dera Ismail Khan and Zhob through the Chuhar Khel Dhana was interrupted by the necessity of a realignment between Dera Ismail Khan and Draband.

Irrigation.

20. The canals under Provincial management continue to give good financial results, as do the water-courses in Peshawar owned by the District Beard or under district management. There was a slight increase at both harvests in the area of land irrigated by canals and wells, and in all the rivers except the Bara and the Tochi the supply of water has been fairly abundant.

Revenue and expenditure.

21. The total receipts under Imperial Revenues amounted to 33 lakhs and the expenditure to 55 lakhs as compared with receipts of 33 lakhs and an expenditure of 51 lakhs in the preceding year. The figures under Incorporated

Local Funds show almost exactly the same results as in the previous year. The income was approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, and the expenditure practically the same. There has been no material change in the income and expenditure of Excluded Local Funds, the figures in both of which are slightly under two lakhs. The Municipal Revenue shows an income and expenditure of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs as compared with 5 lakhs in the preceding year. The expenditure on Public Works amounts to nearly 21 lakhs, or one-and-a-half lakhs less than that of 1902-03.

22. The Province has been fortunate in not having been visited by Vital Statistics. plague. There were a few imported cases in the Hazara District, but these resulted in no spreading of the disease. Apart from this disease, however, the mortality was exceptionally heavy, while the birth-rate was affected unfavourably by the unhealthiness of the year 1903. The death-rate of 28 per mille—four more than that of the previous year and five more than the quinquennial mean average—is attributed to the extreme unhealthiness of November and December resulting in the prevalence of malaria of a malignant type. Although the birth-rate, 31 per mille, showed a decrease of two from the previous year, it was nevertheless one in excess of the quinquennial mean rate. No satisfactory explanation can be afforded of the disproportionate excess in the number of males born.

23. The returns for the year show that Medical institutions retain and Medical Relief. increase their popularity among Pathans. The number of patients admitted into hospital or treated in dispensaries is slightly in excess of that of the previous year, but there is a considerable increase in the number of operations performed. So long as the tribesmen across the border continue their primitive methods of settling their differences, Civil Surgeons on the frontier are likely to have abundant practice in the treatment of gun-shot wounds. The Mission Hospitals continued the excellent work of the previous year. The total expenditure of Government dispensaries during the year was Rs. 93,815 and the income Rs. 95,414.

24. The Municipalities have awakened to a sense of their responsibilities Sanitation and Vaccination. in the matter of drainage and water-supply, and considerable improvements have already been effected, while others are in course of construction. The policy followed by the Mahsuds last year was this year adopted by the people of Chitral, who on the outbreak of small-pox in their country obtained the assistance of ten Government Vaccinators, and secured the vaccination of nearly twenty-eight thousand persons. Practically every man in the country who had not already had small-pox was vaccinated. The total number of vaccinations effected in 1903 was 99,000, of which 94 per cent. were primary and 91.5 successful. The total cost to Government of these operations was slightly under Rs. 15,000.

25. The remarks in the previous year's report apply equally to the year Education. under review. The number of pupils attending schools under the management of Government or Missionary Societies remained practically the same, but the examination results in the higher grades have been rather more satisfactory. A perception of the advantages of education under the Government system is growing in the trans-border tracts, and in the Sheranui country and the Tochi and Khyber Agencies petitions have been received for the establishment of regular schools.



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PART II.

CHAPTER I. POLITICAL.

1. Changes in the Administration.

1. The Hon'ble Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Deane, c.s.i., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General throughout the year.

2. Frontier Affairs.

2. The year has been one of steady progress. In Chitral, thanks to the hearty aid rendered by the Mehtar, the newly raised Corps of Scouts has made an excellent start. In the Khyber, neither the construction of the Mullagori road, nor the laying of a telegraph line to Landi Kotal has awakened the lightly sleeping jealousy of the Afridis. Negotiations for the opening of roads across Northern Waziristan from Thal to Idak and from Thal to Bannu have been successfully completed. Further south, in the Kurram, Tochi and Wana Agencies the British-Afghan Joint Commission settled cases and disposed of outstanding disputes between tribesmen on this side of the Durand Line and Afghan subjects.

3. The Militia Corps have everywhere maintained the improvement noticed last year, and the policy of entrusting to them the defence of outposts has been steadily followed. All the Corps—to the great pride of the men—have now been rearmed with Martini-Henry rifles, an experiment which has so far been successful.

HAZARA.

4. A further dispute between the Nawab of Amb and the Tilli Sayads Amb. has been amicably and, it is hoped, permanently settled.

The Hassanzais having ceased to sulk and apologised for their behaviour Black Mountain are once more in receipt of their allowances.

The influence of the Nawab of Amb has, for the present, put an end to Utmanzais. the fighting between the Kabbal and Kaya sections.

DIR, SWAT AND CHITRAL AGENCY.

5. Relations with the Chiefs of the Agency have been satisfactory General throughout the year and the conduct of the tribes was generally good.

Public opinion is beginning to discourage the practice of faction fighting. Sam Ranizai and Lower Swat. Only two such fights occurred during the year. After one of these the Swat. jirgas of the tribes concerned of their own motion inflicted a fine on the guilty parties, realised it, and paid it in to Government. The popularity of the Queen Victoria Hospital at Chakdarra is steadily growing.

6. Towards the close of the year the Nawab was afflicted with a Dir. paralytic stroke. He has since in some measure recovered, but his condition remains precarious. This perhaps accounts for his apathy towards the crisis which threatened at the end of the year to result from the extortions of his revenue collectors. The relations of the Nawab with the Mehtar of Chitral have not improved.

The Nawabs of Dir and Nawagai have as usual been on the brink of open Bajaur. hostility, but the peace still remains unbroken.

Chitral.

7. The Mehtar continues to show himself an able and loyal ruler. He has taken an active interest in the raising of the Corps of Scouts and done much for the success of the scheme. Agriculture and trade are alike expanding, and a beginning has been made with education. An outbreak of small-pox has led to the vaccination of almost the whole population. Communications have been generally improved and a telegraph line is now open between Chitral and Gilgit.

PESHAWAR.

General.

8. The year has been a quiet one and the tribes have given little trouble. Peshawar Cantonment was again to a large extent free from crimes of the type for which it is notorious; but last year's clean record was marred by a burglary, accompanied with the murder of a chaukidar, and by a fanatical attempt on the life of a British Officer.

Khudu Khels.

The tribe has been brought to its senses by the measures taken last year and committed no further offences.

Boner.

Relations with the Bonerwals have markedly improved, the tribesmen having been brought into more frequent communication with British Officers.

Mohmands.

The faction fighting among the Tarakzai sections has been much diminished by the settlement of some of their internal feuds.

Baezai Moh-
mands.

Pressure put upon this tribe has led to the recovery of seven out of the nine Magazine rifles stolen from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Meerut.

Aka Khels.

The grant of an allowance to this turbulent people has had an excellent effect, and for the first time the end of the year found them with an unblemished record.

KHYBER.

General.

9. Since the death of His Highness Amir Abdul Rahman trade through the Pass has steadily increased, and in two years the toll receipts have risen from Rs. 52,538 to Rs. 64,532. Work on the Mullagori road has gone smoothly on throughout the year and is now nearing completion. The Mullagoris, Shilmanis and Shinwaris, through whose territories the road runs, have been of the greatest assistance.

The action of the Afghan Sartip of Dakka at Smatzai and Shinpokh, on the Shilmani border, in April 1903 threatened at one time to have serious consequences. These villages were promptly occupied by a party of the Khyber Rifles to check the interference of the Sartip. When matters settled down the Khyber Rifles were replaced by levies.

Tirah.

10. The Afridis and Orakzais of Tirah were busy all the summer in the prosecution of religious war. Early in April a faqir of unknown name and origin appeared among the Orakzais and began to preach "jehad" against the Shahi tribes on the Kohat border. He gathered a large force containing detachments from every Sunni tribe between the Khyber and the Kurram and with these attacked the Shahis, who, however, repulsed him with loss. After two months' further preparation he again advanced to the attack, only to meet with a more crushing defeat. He then disappeared from Tirah.

In September Mir Akbar, late Subadar-Major of the Khyber Rifles, a son of *ex*-Malik Khawas, collected some 150 Afridis of no position and took them with him to Kabul. There they were presented to the Amir, under fictitious names, as a representative Afridi Jirga. After being handsomely entertained for some time they were dismissed with valuable presents.

All the tribes of the Agency behaved satisfactorily during the year.

KOHAT.

11. Throughout the year the district has suffered from a gang of outlaws General. led by the notorious Ism Gul. Six murders and dacoities were committed by them, but their most daring exploit was the sack of the Kamr Mishani police station in the Mianwali District. These outlaws find a safe asylum in Afghan territory. In April 1903 the railway was opened from Kohat to Thal. The Samana Rifles continue to do well, and have been rearmed with Martini-Henry rifles.

These tribes have again behaved excellently.

Pass Afridis.

The Daulatzai clans were concerned in the Jangal Khel dacoity, for Orakzais. which they have been fined Rs. 6,000. Apart from this no Orakzai tribe gave any trouble.

12. *Kabul Khels*.—A prominent Miamai Malik was murdered near Thal Wazirs. last August by his hereditary enemies of the Shabar Khel section. A heavy fine has been imposed on the offenders. Otherwise the tribe has behaved in an exemplary manner. It raised no obstacle to the proposed roads from Thal and gave great assistance in the passage of the reliefs to and from Miranshah.

Khojal Khels.—Three sections of this tribe have now established themselves in the Zaimusht stronghold of Chinarak on the Upper Miranzai border. They are troublesome neighbours, and were chiefly responsible for the ambuscading of a party of the Samana Rifles near Shinauri Fort last October. A Jemadar and a sepoy were killed, but the raiders were driven off with the loss of one of their number. For their share in this offence a fine of Rs. 1,200 has been realised from the Khojal Khel.

KURRAM.

13. The Valley has enjoyed good harvests, and its prosperity continues General. unbroken; irrigation has been considerably extended, and good progress has been made with arboriculture. A re-settlement of land revenue is now in progress in the Valley. The appointment of a Civil Surgeon has done much to increase the popular confidence in the local hospitals and dispensaries. Outstanding accounts between British and Afghan subjects have been settled by the Joint Commission, and it may be hoped that their mutual relations will improve.

Fighting in the Zaimusht country is for the present at an end. To Zaimushts. aid them in the recovery of Chinarak from the Wattizai the Khoedad Khel section called in the Khojal Khel Wazirs. Vigorous fighting followed. The allies occupied Sangroba, and shortly after ambushed and slew the famous Chikkai, whose death removes a marked personality from the frontier. The allies are now in joint possession of Chinarak; but their alliance has ceased.

The relations of the Zaimushts with Government remained excellent.

The attitude of this tribe remains unchanged. The Mastu Khel Massuzais. section continued during the year to give trouble.

No fault could be found with the behaviour of the other tribes of this Agency.

BANNU.

14. The lesson taught in November 1902 has been well learnt by the General. tribes on the Bannu border and the year was uneventful. A post has been built at Gumatti, where once was a city of refuge for all bad characters. It is garrisoned by 50 men of the Border Military Police and a good road has been made thence to the district border—a distance of five miles.

The tribe agreed to the proposed opening of the Thal-Bannu road, Ahmadzai Wazirs. and generally behaved well, except the Muhammad Khel section. This section was fined for repeatedly harbouring and assisting an outlaw who was afterwards

Utmanzai Wazirs. captured. Later on two Shadakis, sheltered and employed by the Muhammad Khel, attempted the life of a British officer near Kurram Garhi. The offenders and their harbourers have been given up to justice, and heavily punished.

Bhittannis. The conduct of these tribes was excellent. The murder in British territory of a fellow tribesman by a Malikshahi was their only serious offence. The tribe itself sent a party to arrest the murderer, who was shot while resisting capture.

Daur. The Bhittannis continue their longstanding enmity with the Mahsuds but gave Government no trouble. Seven men who had been implicated in a dacoity were surrendered by the tribe and on conviction sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment.

TOCHI.

Militia. 15. The settlement of the Daur Valley was completed during the year and the first instalment of the new demand has been paid without difficulty. Two Dauris of Tappi were responsible for a fanatical attack on two British Officers at Miranshah. The Officers escaped without injury. Their assailants were captured and executed. The hospitals have been well attended, and schools have been opened at Idak and Miranshah at the request of the inhabitants.

Tribal affairs. The Militia was increased during the year to a strength of 1,300 men and took over the Kajuri, Saidgi and Idak posts.

16. The conduct of the tribes of the Agency was good and little trouble was experienced from the Mahsuds. The Joint British-Afghan Commission, after sitting at Mazdak and the Lwara Ragha moved south along the Durand Line, escorted by 200 Militia. No opposition was encountered. This and the tour of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief from Gulkach in the Zhob Agency through Shawal to Tochi afford a striking example of the excellent relations that now obtain with the tribes.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN.

Largha Sherannis. 17. The Largha Sherannis continued to behave well.

Bhittannis. The Bhittannis gave full satisfaction for the few offences committed by them.

WANA.

Mahsuds. 18. The relations of Government with this tribe have been satisfactory. The distribution of their allowances has been rearranged on a new and more equitable basis. No offences were committed by the Mahsuds in Zhob, Bannu or Dera Ismail Khan, and the Jalal Khel who showed a disposition to renew their old habit of raiding in the Tochi were brought to their senses by an ultimatum from the rest of the tribe. A Company of Alizai Mahsuds has been raised in the 130th Baluchis. The Mahsuds offer a good field for further recruiting without detriment to the Militia, and as the tribal lands do not provide sufficient food for the tribe, an outlet for the employment for the young men would do more to ensure peace than anything else.

Darwesh Khels. Continued peace within the protected area has resulted in the development of internal resources. Water-courses have been extended, new land brought under cultivation, and trees planted.

Powindas. The annual migrations were conducted by the Militia with a total reported loss of one camel only.

Militia. The improvement noticed last year was maintained. The strength of the Corps was increased by 677 men, and Wana and Ngandi Oba posts were taken over on the departure of the regular troops.

3. Condition of the People.

19. There has been no scarcity during the year, though prices ruled General rather high during the cold weather, especially in the southern districts. Fairly good harvests have generally strengthened the position of the agricultural classes, and the value of land continues to rise.

External trade was rather adversely affected by the conditions prevailing in Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries, but the Province generally continued in a prosperous condition.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

[Further details will be found in the Provincial Report on the Administration of Land Revenue for 1902-03 (Government Press, North-West Frontier Province) and in the Agricultural Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

1. Realization of the Revenue.

20. *Fixed Land Revenue.*—The fixed land revenue demand amounted Demands and Collections. to Rs. 16,02,241, of which Rs. 15,71,136 or 98 per cent. were collected. The balance left at the end of the year was Rs. 31,105 as against Rs. 67,936 at the close of the preceding year. Of this balance Rs. 5,718 were irrecoverable, Rs. 201 undetermined, Rs. 24,598 under suspension, and only Rs. 588 recoverable. The collections on account of previous years amounted to Rs. 31,139, compared with Rs. 11,646 in the previous year, the increase being due to a good rabi harvest.

In all districts except the Daman tract of Dera Ismail Khan the harvests were average or good, and the revenue was realized punctually and without much difficulty. In the Daman it was again found necessary to grant large suspensions.

21. *Fluctuating Land Revenue.*—The demand on account of fluctuating land revenue amounted to Rs. 1,13,481 as against Rs. 50,385 in 1901-02. Of this, Rs. 1,11,814 were collected and Rs. 1,667 remained in balance. The increase occurred chiefly in the Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan districts, where collections under this head rose from Rs. 3,034 to Rs. 10,497 and from Rs. 4,4228 to Rs. 1,00,252 respectively. The large increase in Dera Ismail Khan was due to more favourable conditions in the tracts under fluctuating assessment and to improved management of irrigation from hill torrents.

22. *Miscellaneous Land Revenue.*—The demand under this head was Rs. 63,225, as compared with Rs. 62,931 in the previous year. Of the year's demand only Rs. 781 remained uncollected. The main source of increase was "tirni" or grazing dues collected from trans-border nomads who bring down their flocks into British territory for the cold weather. The receipts rose from Rs. 5,137 to Rs. 5,940 in Kohat and from Rs. 32,051 to Rs. 34,351 in Dera Ismail Khan. Much damage and annoyance to the inhabitants of the districts is, however, caused by these immigrants, and it has been decided to raise the fees in Kohat and to arrange for their more systematic collection.

23. Two large resumptions of assigned land revenue were made during the year. In Peshawar the "jagir" of Said Amin Jan, of an annual value of Rs. 3,257, was resumed on his death, and in Dera Ismail Khan the "jagir" of Rs. 1,312 held by Mahmud Khan, Gandapuri, was resumed on his conviction for the murder of his brother, Hassan Khan.

Resumptions of Land Revenue Assignments.

24. 4,682 processes were issued as against 4,575 last year. Of this number 2,215 were issued in the Peshawar and Bannu districts, where the people still regard the revenue demand as one to be evaded as long as possible.

Coercive processes for the collection of land revenue.

25. Rs. 63,111 were advanced under these two Acts, as against Rs. 39,725 in the year before. The balance outstanding as principal at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,09,065, of which Rs. 84,931 fell due within the year. Of this sum, Rs. 67,815 were recovered and Rs. 5,347 were suspended. The remainder due is chiefly on account of loans in the Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan districts, where the demand for repayment was not pressed on account of the recent bad harvests. The system of agricultural advances is undoubtedly growing in popularity.

Advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists Loans Acts.

2. Surveys.

Surveys.

26. In the Hazara District the survey of the Kaghan forests was carried out by the Forest Survey Department. In Kohat the mapping of the district boundary up to the actual border line along the crest of the hills was almost completed, and only the southern slopes of the Samana remain to be measured.

3. Settlements.

Settlements.

27. *Dera Ismail Khan*.—Orders on the reports dealing with the Indus Valley portion of the district and with the Tank Tahsil were passed in April and October 1903. The new demand was introduced in both tracts from the autumn harvest of the same year.

28. *Kohat*.—Attestation of rights was practically completed during the year, and in April the Assessment Report for the Kohat and Hangu tahsils was submitted. Orders were passed for the introduction of the new demand from Kharif 1903. An increase of Rs. 64,933 per annum, or over 40 per cent. of the previous land revenue, will ultimately result from this assessment, but the demand will still remain considerably below the half net assets standard.

29. *Hazara*.—The difficulties of Settlement operations in this mountainous district have been found very great and the work will not be finished for two years at least. Good progress has been made with re-measurement, but attestation has been permitted rather to lag behind.

30. *Daur*.—The re-assessment of the Tochi Valley was completed during the year. The new demand which, under the agreement with the Dauris, represents one-tenth of the gross produce, was fixed at Rs. 36,000 and came into effect from the kharif of 1903. The previous demand which had been roughly determined in 1895, pending a regular survey and assessment, was only Rs. 8,000. The new assessment has been well received and the first instalment was paid punctually and without difficulty.

4. Land Records.

Records of rights.

31. In Dera Ismail Khan, Kohat and Hazara the records of rights have been under revision. This is now complete in Dera Ismail Khan, and but little remains to do in Kohat; progress has, however, been rather retarded in Hazara by the exceptional difficulties of survey work.

Land Record Establishment.

32. 700 Patwaris are now employed in the Province and 108 candidates were accepted during the year. Of these, 37 were Hindus and Sikhs and 71 Muhammadans. 9 of the former and 62 of the latter belonged to agricultural tribes. 45 out of the whole number had passed the Middle School Standard. Considering the low standard of educational qualifications insisted upon, the number of candidates belonging to agricultural tribes is smaller than it ought to be. Efforts are being made to increase the proportion of Muhammadan Patwaris, which is still very low. 18 Patwaris were dismissed and 4 resigned. Fines were frequent, but did not exceed rewards in amount. On the whole the conduct and efficiency of the Patwari staff was satisfactory.

Kanungos.

33. The total number of candidates at the end of the year was 151, as against 115 last year. Of these, 72 were Sikhs and Hindus and 79 Muhammadans: 48 belonged to agricultural classes and 71 were Patwaris. Nearly all the others had passed the University Entrance Examination.

Prospects of employment and promotion are good, especially in the districts under Settlement. The post of Kanungo has now come to be regarded as the surest stepping stone to promotion in the Revenue Department and is eagerly coveted.

34. Out of 160,357 mutations, 133,940 were attested and 26,417 remained pending at the end of the year. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 141,171, 122,772 and 18,399. The increase is mainly in the Bannu District, where special measures were taken to bring the record up to date as a preliminary to the Settlement operations, which began on 1st October 1903. Mutations.

35. The preparation of annual records continued as usual, save that in the Annual Re-
cords. districts under Settlement it had in some cases to be subordinated to more urgent Settlement operations. The disposal of partition cases has been satisfactory. In Dera Ismail Khan good progress was made with the Gandapur partition, which affects 24 estates and some 40,000 acres of land, and will substitute individual for tribal ownership. The partition has since been completed. It had been under consideration ever since annexation, but all previous attempts to carry it through had failed owing to the intricacy of the tenures and the opposition of influential middlemen.

36. The number of officers employed was 103 as against 106 in 1901-02. Business Re-
turns. These disposed of 22,223 revenue cases of all classes, as against 20,008 in the previous year. There is a satisfactory decrease from 2,689 to 2,258 in the number of cases left pending at the end of the year.

5. Government waste lands.

37. The forests in the Hazara District are managed under the Hazara Forest Regulation of 1893 and include—

- (1) reserved forests, which are the property of Government, subject to certain rights continued to the owners of adjoining villages and the payment to such owners of certain fees known as seigniorage fees on account of trees felled ;
- (2) village forests, which are the property of the people, subject to the rights of Government in respect of forest conservancy and seigniorage fees.

A revision of the rules for the management of village forests was undertaken during the year, and the revised rules were sanctioned on 14th October, shortly after the close of the Revenue year. The general principle on which the rules are framed is the emancipation from all unnecessary restrictions of the use of dry wood, whether standing or fallen, and the more complete protection of growing trees other than those *bonâ fide* required by the owners for their domestic and agricultural needs. These rules will, it is hoped, retard, if not prevent, the complete disappearance of the village forests.

6. Wards' Estates.

38. No new estate was taken over, but proposals for the management of Wards' Estates by the Court of Wards of the estate of Hassan Khan and Mahmud Khan, Gandapurs, of the Dera Ismail Khan District, are under consideration. The total area held by the wards in proprietary right was the same as last year, but the gross income of their estates rose from Rs. 56,240 to Rs. 70,307, while the gross expenditure fell from Rs. 59,093 to Rs. 51,660. The debts paid off, however, amounted to only Rs. 6,586 as against Rs. 8,450 last year. The only estate now showing a deficit is that of Amir Muhammad Khan of Shabkadar in the Peshawar District, which is encumbered with a debt of about Rs. 27,000. A new scheme of management has been drawn up according to which the existing debts should be cleared off in about five years.

The cost of management of all the estates was only Rs. 1,819, as against Rs. 3,217 in the preceding year. There has been no change in the system of management.

Shortly after the close of the year, the estate of Sadullah Khan in Kohat was handed over to him free of all encumbrances. When placed under the Court of Wards' management by the Punjab Government in 1895, the liabilities of the estate amounted to Rs. 18,000.

7. Revenue and Rent paying Classes.

Transfers.

39. The area of land transferred during the year as contrasted with the figures of the previous year was as follows:—

		1902-03.	1901-02.
		<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
By gift or exchange	...	35,913	26,189
By mortgage	...	99,380	120,142
By redemption of mortgage	...	67,666	88,754
By sale	...	66,043	74,583

Of the area transferred by mortgage and sale 6,657 acres of cultivated land were mortgaged and 2,957 sold to new agriculturalists.

40. The average consideration per cultivated acre was, on a mortgage Rs. 50, on redemption Rs. 48, on sale Rs. 74. A comparison of these figures with the average rates paid last year, *viz.* Rs. 48, Rs. 37 and Rs. 69, shows that the price of land continues to rise.

CHAPTER III. PROTECTION.

1. Course of Legislation.

41. In the Supreme Legislative Council one Act specially concerning this Province was passed during the year under review. This was the Border Military Police Act (IV of 1904).

Two Regulations having the force of law, *viz.*,—

The Naranji Law and Justice Regulation (No. I of 1903),

The Peshawar Canals Amendment Regulation (No. II of 1903),

were issued by the Supreme Executive Council, and, in addition to the above, as much of the Indian Petroleum Act (VIII of 1899) as does not extend *proprio vigore* to the whole of British India, and The Punjab Military Transport Animals Act (I of 1903) were extended to the North-West Frontier Province by the Chief Commissioner with the sanction of the Governor-General in Council.

2. Police.

[Further details will be found in the Provincial Police Administration Report for 1903 (Government Press, North-West Frontier Province) and in the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04, Section VII.]

42. 9,512 cognizable offences were reported during 1903 as against 9,966 General in the previous year. 6,256 of these, as against 6,525 in 1902, were complaints of offences under the Indian Penal Code, and of that number 3,908 were made direct to the Police.

43. 3,312 Magistrates' cases (*i.e.* cases in which though the offence was Magistrates' cases. cognizable no reference was made to the Police) were decided during the year, and of these 843 or 26 per cent. resulted in convictions. On the other hand, of Police cases. the 6,276 cases reported to and investigated by the Police convictions were obtained in 41 per cent. The percentage of convictions in both classes of cases is markedly higher than in the two preceding years.

44. 180 murders were committed in all,—12 fewer than in 1902,—and Murders. the decrease is satisfactory. Peshawar is the only district in which the numbers have risen, the figures being 90 as compared with 82 last year. The increase is, however, rather apparent than real, as the returns of that district include one case each of quintuple, treble and double murder.

45. There has also been a satisfactory decrease in the number of these Dacoity and Robbery. offences. Dacoities fell from 61 in 1902 to 55, and robberies from 132 to 105. The decrease was most marked in the Kohat and Bannu districts—a circumstance which throws light on the share taken in such crimes by trans-border tribesmen.

46. 891 cases of burglary were recorded as compared with 1,045 in 1902. Burglaries.

47. The total number of offences relating to coins and currency notes Counterfeiting rose from 15 to 19, in 9 of which convictions were obtained. Important coin. captures of professional coiners in possession of dies and other tools employed in counterfeiting were made at Dheri Bhagwanan near Peshawar, at Khanpur, and at Shinkiari in the Hazara District. All three cases were prosecuted to conviction and deterrent sentences were imposed.

Arms.

48. 314 cases of offences under the Arms Act were sent up for trial, and 251 of these resulted in conviction. The number of breech-loading rifles lost or stolen in the Province during 1903 was 19. 30 rifles, including 7 Lee-Enfields stolen from the Welsh Fusiliers at Meerut in December 1902, were recovered during the year.

Recovery of stolen property.

49. Property to the value of Rs. 98,571 was reported to have been stolen during 1903. The corresponding figures for 1901 and 1902 respectively were Rs. 1,56,015 and Rs. 1,41,205. The percentage recovered, however, fell from 39 per cent. in 1902 to 36 per cent. in 1903.

Bad characters.

50. 677 persons were ordered to furnish security for good behaviour under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code during the year, as against 545 in 1901 and 969 in 1902.

Punitive posts.

51. In April 1903 a punitive post at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,412 per annum was established at Karbogha in the Khattak country; the posts at Talbi, Manki, Bizan Khel and Bahadur Khel in the same tract were withdrawn. The punitive post at Tarnab in the Peshawar District has been continued.

Outlaws.

213 outlaws surrendered themselves or were arrested during the year.

Rewards for aid rendered to the Police.

Rewards for assistance rendered to the Police were given in 84 cases, and District authorities are generally awake to this most excellent method of enlisting popular sympathy on the side of law and order. Besides rewards bestowed on individuals, one considerable remission of revenue was granted to a village community in the Peshawar District.

Strength and cost of the Police Force.

52. The sanctioned strength of the Force remained unaltered from the previous year; its cost during 1903 was Rs. 5,86,733 as against Rs. 5,93,455 in 1902.

Discipline and health.

53. Departmental punishments, excluding dismissals, numbered 269, compared with 351 in 1902 and 454 in 1901. Judicial punishments numbered 35, and 62 men were dismissed the service. Rewards were given to 250 members of the Police Force, 69 of whom were officers. The general health of the Force was good.

Recruiting.

54. The recruiting question is becoming acute, and matters, according to the Inspector-General of Police, "are in a serious condition throughout the Province. The number of vacancies is considerable, and the Force at full strength is insufficient to meet the demands upon it."

3. Criminal Justice.

[Further details will be found in the Criminal Administration Report of the Province for 1903 (Government Press, North-West Frontier Province) and in the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04, Section IV.]

Crime.

55. 18,219 offences were reported during 1903 as against 21,095 in 1902. Of the offences reported 13,255 or 73 per cent. were returned as true. The percentage in 1902 was 72.

56. The last three years have witnessed in all districts a steady diminution in serious crime. There has been a marked falling off in the number of murders, cases of theft, robbery and burglary.

Strength of the Magistracy.

57. There has been no change in the number of Sub-Divisions, Districts and sub-districts. But on the last day of the year the total number of officers invested with criminal powers, original or appellate, was 108 as against 104 at the close of 1902.

Work of the Magistracy.

58. District Magistrates disposed of 1,468 cases under the Frontier Crimes Regulation, 58 cases (compared with 21 in 1902) under their enhanced powers, and 126 cases under their ordinary powers. Additional District Magistrates disposed of 146 cases as against 179 in 1902 under their enhanced powers.

59. Honorary Magistrates sitting singly or in benches disposed of 1,777 cases.

60. Of the 13,255 offences returned as true, 12,497 or 94 per cent. were ^{Results of trials} brought to trial. In these trials 28,001 persons were involved, of whom 13,661 ^{in Magistrates' Courts.} or 48 per cent. were convicted. The rise in the percentage of convictions in the Hazara District from 31 to 42 is satisfactory.

61. Out of 28,237 persons under trial during the year the cases of ^{Disposal of} 27,645 were disposed of. 13,733 or 49 per cent. of these were discharged or ^{work.} acquitted as against 51 per cent. in 1902.

Compensation was awarded to accused persons under Section 250, Criminal Procedure Code, in 141 cases as against 133, and the total number of complaints dismissed summarily was 4,961 as against 4,951 in 1902. But the figure for 1903 represents 28 per cent. of the complaints instituted as against 22 per cent. in the previous year.

17 persons were released on probation under Section 562, Criminal Procedure Code.

62. The following table shows the criminal business disposed of by the Sessions Courts. two Sessions Courts of the Province during the last two years :—

	Sessions cases.		Criminal appeals.		Applications for revision.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
Peshawar	...	40	55	317	298	130
Derajat	...	31	30	267	347	23
						30

The average duration of Sessions cases was 32 days in Peshawar and 37 in the Derajat, and of criminal appeals 14 days in Peshawar and 8 days in the Derajat. Only 9 criminal appeals were pending in both Courts at the end of the year.

63. During the last two years the Judicial Commissioner has disposed ^{Judicial Com-}missioner. of the following cases on the criminal side :—

	<i>Murder references.</i>	<i>Appeals.</i>	<i>Revisions.</i>
1902	...	25	118
1903	...	26	155

Capital sentences passed by Courts of Session were confirmed in the case of 18 persons, and commuted to transportation for life in the case of 8 persons. The average duration of criminal appeals was 34 days.

64. 627 persons appealed to District Magistrates as against 923 in the ^{Appeals and} previous year. The power of enhancement now vested in District Magistrates has had the effect of checking speculative appeals. District Magistrates found it necessary to interfere with the sentences passed in the case of 258 persons—42 per cent. of those whose appeals were decided. The sentences on 17 persons only were enhanced.

Of 785 persons who appealed to Courts of Session 260, or 1 in 3, procured the alteration or reversal of their sentences.

The sentences passed on 11 persons were enhanced on appeal by Courts of Session.

65. 6,026 persons were required to find security as against 7,530 in 1902. ^{Punishments.} The decrease is confined to the Peshawar District, where in the opinion of the District Magistrate indiscriminate use had been made of the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code and Frontier Crimes Regulation for preventing breaches of the peace.

Fines.

Fines to the amount of Rs. 1,16,305 were imposed as against Rs. 90,653 in 1902, and realisations during the year amounted to Rs. 87,070. Of the total amount of fines Rs. 66,758 or 70 per cent. were imposed in the Courts of District Magistrates, chiefly under the Frontier Crimes Regulation. The major portion of the Rs. 16,360 granted as compensation to complainants was also awarded under that Regulation.

284 sentences of whipping were passed under the Whipping Act and 70 under the Frontier Crimes Regulation as compared with 265 and 45 in 1902. A sentence of whipping was passed in 25 per cent. of the cases in which that punishment was authorised by law.

Frontier Crimes Regulation.

66. The number of references to Councils of Elders under Section 11 of the Regulation rose from 240 to 355. The largest increases—from 30 to 119 and from 85 to 101—occurred in Kohat and Bannu. The increase in those districts is due to the large number of outlaws who surrendered themselves for trial during the year.

In all 1,122 persons were tried by this procedure, of whom 517 were convicted. The percentage of persons convicted varied from 27 in Peshawar to 71 in Hazara. 63 per cent. of the references in Peshawar, however, ended in conviction, and the difference between the percentage of persons convicted and of cases ending in a conviction is ascribed by the District Magistrate to the Pathan practice of charging as many relatives of the guilty parties as possible in each case.

4. Prisons.

[Further details will be found in the Report on the Administration of Jails of the Province for 1903 and in the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04, Section V.]

Convicts.

67. The close of 1902 left a convict population of 864—of whom 34 were women—in the five jails of the Province. During 1903 there were 3,857 admissions, and at the end of the year, after deduction on account of convicts released, transferred, removed, executed and deceased, there was a balance of 1,061, of whom 46 were females. Of the convicts admitted 98 per cent. were wholly illiterate.

Under-trial Prisoners.

68. 4,914 persons were confined during 1903 in Judicial Lock-ups pending trial, as against 4,176 in 1902. Despite this increase of 738 persons only 202 were left with their cases still undecided at the end of 1903 as against 209 at the end of 1902. The increase was due partly to the large numbers of offenders who gave themselves up for trial in the Kohat and Bannu districts on the conclusion of the operations against the Kabul Khel Wazirs.

Civil Prisoners.

There was also an inconsiderable increase in the number of civil prisoners.

Daily average Jail Population.

69. The daily average of prisoners of all classes was 1,280 as against 1,183 in 1902.

Juvenile Prisoners.

70. 19 juvenile offenders were sentenced to imprisonment in 1903. A previous conviction had been recorded against only one of these, and the attention of Magistrates has again been drawn to the orders issued last year.

Habitual Offenders.

71. 208 habitual offenders were admitted as against 166 in 1902. The increase is again partly due to the large number of outlaws arrested in Kohat and Bannu. Of the convicts admitted, 238 or 6 per cent. had previous convictions recorded against them.

Executions.

72. 17 persons were executed during 1903; this number included no women.

Accommodation.

73. On the last day of 1903 the jails of the Province contained accommodation for 1,401 male and 104 female prisoners. But there was no jail in which it was not at least once during the year necessary to confine more prisoners than could be properly accommodated therein. Temporary arrangements were made to meet the difficulty and the overcrowding was reduced.

as soon as possible by transfer. This evil was most noticeable in the Kohat and Bannu jails where it was in part due to the number of political prisoners confined. The health of the jail population, however, did not suffer.

74. The conduct of the officials employed by the Department was satisfactory. Offences numbered 194 as against 222 in 1902, but punishments by fine rose from 82 to 92. Two warders were dismissed for serious offences against prison discipline.

75. There were no escapes or attempts at escape in 1903. One prisoner who had previously escaped from the Peshawar Jail was recaptured. Conduct and Discipline.

The number of offences against prison discipline fell from 1,504 in 1902 to 1,207 in 1903, the most marked improvement being in the Dera Ismail Khan Jail. Offences punishable by major punishments were, however, slightly more numerous than in the previous year. They numbered 310 as against 297. Twelve whippings were inflicted.

76. The total expenditure of the Department is shown as Rs. 82,017 **Expenditure.** as against Rs. 86,169 in 1902. But the difference is chiefly due to the fact that the pay of the ungazetted establishment—Rs. 2,769—for December 1902 was drawn in that month and not in January 1903. Savings were also shown under the heads dieting, hospital charges and transfers. The average cost to Government per prisoner was Rs. 67-15-0 per annum.

77. There was an increase of 71 in the total number of prisoners sentenced to labour on working days, with the result that the net cash earnings of prisoners amounted to Rs. 7,084 instead of Rs. 5,291. Cotton clothing for the use of prisoners in the jails of the Province is now being made in the Dera Ismail Khan Jail instead of being purchased from the Punjab. This satisfactory innovation accounts for the increase of 38 in the number of prisoners shown as engaged in the preparation of articles for prison use.

Paper-making and Lithographic printing were the most profitable industries.

78. While the death-rate among the free population of the Province Vital Statistics, rose in 1903 from 24.42 to 28.40 that among the prisoners fell from 28.40 to 15.66. The year was, however, unhealthy owing to the prevalence of malaria in the southern districts during the autumn.

5. Civil Justice.

[Further details will be found in the Report on the Administration of Civil Justice of this Province for 1903 (Government Press, North-West Frontier Province) and in the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04, Section III.]

79. The following table shows the numbers and classes of suits instituted in the Province during 1903, as compared with institutions of the previous year :—

DISTRICT.	Population.	Suits for money or moveable property.		Title and other suits.		Total suits.		
		1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	
Peshawar	785,707	4,860	4,859	1,377	1,562	6,237	6,421
Hazara	560,288	2,364	1,974	1,203	1,202	3,632	3,176
Kohat	217,865	1,876	1,641	412	327	2,288	1,968
Bannu	231,485	2,882	3,190	686	577	3,563	3,767
Dera Ismail Khan	252,379	2,771	3,680	301	313	3,072	3,993
Total		2,050,724	14,753	15,314	4,014	3,981	18,797	19,325

528 more suits were brought in 1903 than in 1902, the increase being confined to suits for money and moveable property ; but the total number of institutions fell short of the total for 1901 by 189 cases.

Bannu remains the most litigious district in the Province. Institutions in that district amounted to 168 per ten thousand of the population as contrasted with 57 in Hazara.

Value of suits.

80. Of the 19,325 suits instituted during the year, 4,090 or 21 per cent. did not exceed Rs. 10 in value ; in 9,057 or 47 per cent. amounts above Rs. 10 but under Rs. 50 were at stake. Only 3 per cent. exceeded Rs. 500 in value.

The total value of all suits was Rs. 20,33,214 as against Rs. 19,53,227 in 1902, and the average value was Rs. 105 as against Rs. 102. The increase is due to the fact that during 1903 22 suits of a value exceeding Rs. 10,000 were instituted as against 8 in the year before.

Nature of suits.

81. All districts except Peshawar showed a decrease in the number of suits for pre-emption instituted, but the provincial total rose slightly from 684 to 698.

Matrimonial suits also continued to diminish in numbers ; the figures for the last three years being :—

1901	...	...	362
1902	...	...	290
1903	...	...	241

The decrease is satisfactory.

Out of 15,344 suits for money and moveable property, 164 as against 116 last year were brought on registered bonds, while 6,064 as compared with 6,099 in 1902 were based on unregistered contracts in writing.

Of this class of cases 5,573, as against 5,492 in 1902, were brought by money-lenders against agriculturists. The proportion varied from 12 per cent. in Kohat to 62 per cent. in Hazara.

Agency for disposal of Civil business.

82. The number of officers invested with civil powers was at the end of 1903—

	1903.	1902.
District Judges	...	4
Sub-Judges	...	1
Assistant Commissioners	...	7
Extra Assistant Commissioners	...	14
Small Cause Courts	...	1
Munsifs	...	6
Tahsildars	...	16
Naib Tahsildars	...	3
Honorary Munsifs	...	7

Assistant Commissioners disposed of 2·4 per cent. of the total number of cases instituted. The proportion is not yet perhaps as large as it might be, but is not unsatisfactory, considering the multifarious duties of these officers in frontier districts. It must also be remembered that in a province where only 3 per cent. of the cases instituted are valued at more than Rs. 500 the bulk of the work must necessarily be disposed of by the more subordinate agency.

Disposal of Cases.

83. The average duration of suits fell from 42 to 40 days in contested, and from 25 to 22 days in uncontested cases, while at the end of the year 2,011 cases in all Courts remained undecided as against 2,320 at the close of 1902.

Appellate Work.

84. District Judges and Sub-Judges with appellate powers disposed of 486 appeals as against 552 in 1902 ; the decrease occurred chiefly in the Peshawar and Kohat districts.

The order of the Lower Court was reversed or modified in 30 per cent. of the appeals instituted, as against 26 per cent. in 1902 and 34 per cent. in 1901.

Divisional Courts disposed of 951 regular and 83 miscellaneous appeals as compared with 1,029 and 55 respectively in 1902. Civil appellate business continued to be much heavier in the Peshawar Divisional Court than in the Derajat; but the work of both Courts was kept well up to date. At the close of the year there were only 24 regular appeals in both Courts which had been pending for over three months, as compared with 50 at the end of 1902 and 191 at the end of 1901.

The average duration of appeals has also improved from 106 to 73 days in the Peshawar Divisional Court and from 141 to 41 days in that of the Derajat.

The decisions of Lower Courts were altered in 28 per cent. of the appeals brought before the Divisional Judge of Peshawar and in 33 per cent. of those heard by the Divisional Judge of the Derajat.

85. The courts disposed of 14,424 applications for execution of decrees ^{Execution of Decrees} out of 16,145 presented. 30 per cent. were satisfied in full and 13 per cent. in part. Out of Rs. 12,46,019 in execution Rs. 3,49,849 or 28 per cent. were realised as against 31 per cent. in 1902. These figures are, however, very misleading, as many judgment debtors satisfy the claims of their creditors without giving information to the courts whence the decrees have been issued.

86. 79 appeals and 191 applications for revision were disposed of ^{Judicial Commissioner's Court.} by the Judicial Commissioner. The average duration of regular appeals was 77 days.

6. Registration.

[Further information will be found in the Report on the Administration of the Registration Department of the Province for 1903 (Government Press, North-West Frontier Province) and in the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04, Section IX.]

87. The total number of registrations rose from 9,478 in 1902 to 9,811 ^{General.} in 1903. 9,428 documents affecting immoveable property to the value of Rs. 50,20,832 were registered as against 9,005 documents in 1902, affecting immoveable property to the value of Rs. 47,02,267. The Peshawar District is accountable for nearly the whole increase. In that district alone 4,889 documents were registered affecting Rs. 28,51,517 worth of immoveable property—56 per cent. of the provincial total. While the number of compulsory registrations rose from 8,106 to 8,568 the optional registrations fell from 899 to 860. Registrations of moveable property decreased from 415 in 1902 to 317 in 1903, the value of the property affected being Rs. 1,21,468 as compared with Rs. 1,52,405.

88. The receipts of the Department amounted to Rs. 31,375, an ^{Finance.} increase of Rs. 1,187 over 1902. Its expenditure rose from Rs. 8,135 to Rs. 8,606.

89. No cases of fraud or forgery were detected.

7. District and Local Boards.

[Further details will be found in the Provincial Report on the working of District Boards for 1902-03 and in the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03, Section XVIII.]

90. The only two Local Boards in the Province—Bannu and Marwat—^{Constitution.} having been found unnecessary, now that the district has been reduced in size, have been abolished. Their functions have been assumed by the Bannu District Board.

The system of election, which prevailed hitherto in the Haripur and Abbottabad tahsils of the Hazara District, has not been found to work well and its abolition has been sanctioned by the Government of India. Apart from the above, there have been no changes in the constitution or jurisdiction of the District Boards.

Meetings.

91. All the District Boards except Kohat held the required number of meetings, and the average attendance, throughout the Province, was 46 per cent. of the members. The attendance was not unsatisfactory, but, with a few exceptions, the non-official members do not appear to have awakened as yet to a proper sense of their responsibilities and take very little interest in Local Self-Government, except perhaps in matters where their own individual interests are concerned.

Working.

92. That the working of the District Boards of the Province has been satisfactory is mainly due to the official members.

Finance.

93. The collective balance to the credit of the five District Boards was, at the beginning of the year, Rs. 66,911, and their income amounted to Rs. 2,18,623. Apart from debt transactions and contributions paid to or from other Boards, Rs. 2,19,176 were expended, and the closing balance was Rs. 71,330. No District Board was left at the end of the year with a balance below the prescribed minimum. The expenditure under the heads "Education" and "Medical" reached the requisite proportion of the income in the case of all District Boards except Bannu, where it fell a little short. Eight new schools were opened for the extension of primary education.

8. Municipalities.

Constitution.

94. No changes have taken place in the constitution or in the boundaries of the 10 Municipalities and the one Notified Area which this Province contains.

Meetings.

95. All Municipal Committees except Kohat held the required number of meetings, and the attendance, averaging 62 per cent., was very satisfactory.

Finance.

96. The opening balances aggregated Rs. 1,74,365 ; the total income, excluding this, was Rs. 5,09,675. The expenditure was Rs. 4,80,110 and the closing balance Rs. 2,03,930.

Receipts, octroi.

97. The octroi receipts amounted to Rs. 3,76,486—about Rs. 10,000 more than last year : refunds rose from Rs. 4,685 to Rs. 4,931. The average incidence of octroi per head of the town population was Re. 1-15-6, and the cost of collection about 7 per cent. of the income.

Other Taxation.

Taxes other than octroi are levied only in Haripur, Abbottabad and Peshawar. The total income derived from these taxes was Rs. 5,888 as against Rs. 4,918 in the previous year.

Sources of income other than Taxation.

The total receipts from other miscellaneous sources amounted to Rs. 1,27,301 as compared with Rs. 1,18,373 in 1902.

Expenditure.

98. The expenditure of the year was thus apportioned—

General Administration	...	...	...	11.4
Public Safety	...	...	...	18.9
Public Health and Convenience	...	...	...	48.5
Public Instruction	...	...	...	10.6
Contributions	...	...	...	6.5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	4.1
				100

The end of the year found the Kohat Municipality in possession of a balance of more than half a lakh. Rs. 30,000 of this are being invested in Government paper, and a scheme has been drawn up for the expenditure of the remainder in improving the paving and drainage of the city, and building houses to relieve the present congestion.

9. Military.

1,476 recruits were enlisted in the districts of the Province, as against 1,071 last year.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

or 752

NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

105

1963-64.



CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

1. Agriculture.

[Further information will be found in the Provincial Land Revenue Report for 1902-03 and in the Agricultural Statistics of British India, 1902-03.]

99. The Province has now been long enough in existence to admit *General* of the calculation of the average areas sown and harvested. From this it is seen that about 25 lakhs of acres are usually sown, of which 20 lakhs come to maturity and the remainder, 20 per cent., fails; these figures relate to the five settled districts only and not to the trans-frontier agencies. About 32 per cent. of the cultivated area is irrigated, and no very great extension of either cultivation or irrigation from existing sources is possible.

2. Weather and Crops.

[Further information will be found in the Provincial Season and Crop Report for 1903-04 (North-West Frontier Province Government Press).]

SEASONS, HARVESTS AND CROPS.

100. June 1903 was very dry, and a large area of early sowings for *Kharif*, the autumn harvest consequently failed. Well distributed rain in July, however, enabled a normal area of unirrigated land to be sown, but everywhere, except in Dera Ismail Khan, there was a great shortage in the August rains. The drought continued until the storm of the 9th—11th September, which gave general and timely rain, but in places caused some damage by floods. Thereafter the rainfall ceased abruptly. Hot dry weather in the later autumn caused large failures on unirrigated lands. The *kharif* crop was, however, above average in area and about average as regards yield.

101. The same September rains which did so much for the *kharif* *Rabi* harvest afforded an opportunity for the preparation of an unusually large area for the *rabi*. But the next two-and-a-half months were practically rainless. Much of the unirrigated land was therefore perforce left unsown, and part of what was sown failed to germinate. Heavy and general rain fell in the last week of December and throughout January, which led to extensive sowings on unirrigated lands; indeed barley was sown in Peshawar as late as the first week in February. February was fine and favourable for growth, and was followed by abundant rain in March. The late sown, and consequently late maturing, crop suffered some damage from hot winds, but the *rabi* of 1904 was the largest harvest within living memory, and well above average in outturn.

102. The following table compares the figures of areas sown and harvested in 1903-04 with the average for the three preceding years:—

	AVERAGE FOR THE YEARS 1900-01— 1902-03.			1903-04.		
	Kharif (Total only).	Rabi (Total only).	Total.	Kharif.	Rabi.	Total.
Area sown	945,386	1,517,831	2,466,223	1,044,283
„ failed	163,252	327,110	490,362	204,531
„ harvested	785,134	1,190,721	1,975,838	839,752
						2,769,794
						420,824
						2,348,970

Produce.

103. The most important crop in the Province is wheat, which occupied 902,964 acres in 1904 as against 699,107 acres in 1903 and 510,905 acres in 1902. The yield was estimated at 681 lbs. per acre, which is decidedly good seeing that 70 per cent. of the crop was grown on unirrigated soil. Maize, which was sown in 370,828 acres as compared with 357,649 in the previous year, is the most important of the autumn crops.

The area sown with barley showed an enormous increase from 170,508 to 262,420 acres. This is due to the lateness of the winter rains, which were timely enough for barley sowing in many places, though too late for wheat and gram.

The valuable sugarcane crop, three-fourths of which is grown in Peshawar, occupied 27,224 acres as against 26,478 in 1902-03; the cane matured well, but the wet cold winter delayed pressing, and the outturn fell far short of anticipations.

Outturn.

104. The following table gives an estimate of the outturn in each district of the principal crops. The average yield in each case is regarded as 100.

Principal crops.	Hazara.	Peshawar.	Kohat.	Bannu.	Dera Ismail Khan.	Total.
Wheat	120	130	150	176	125	135
Barley	110	160	180	169	110	150
Gram	...	...	120	183	130	155
Maize	100	120	75	103	...	105
Jowar	...	...	100	140	120	120
Bajra	80	...	90	...	...	90
Rice	95	110	98	...	...	100
Other cereals	...	100	98	...	120	115
Oil seeds	...	120	102	79	95	100
Sugarcane	...	90	...	113	...	92
Cotton	...	92	79	107	65	90
Total	108	128	120	152	125	135

3. Horticulture.

[Further information will be found in the Provincial Reports on Municipalities, District Boards and Arboriculture, 1903-04.]

105. The Municipalities of the Province spent Rs. 19,652 on arboriculture, public gardens and experimental cultivation as against Rs. 20,106 in the previous year. Income under the heads garden receipts, sale of trees, grass, &c., amounted to Rs. 4,346. Local Fund expenditure on the same objects was Rs. 5,455, while the income realised was Rs. 1,901.

4. Forests.

[Further information will be found in the Provincial Report for 1902-03 (*Civil and Military Gazette* Press, Lahore). The Provincial Report for 1903-04 was not available in time for use in the preparation of this report.]

Area and Classi-
fication: the
Hazara Forest
Division.

106. The Hazara Forest Division is the only area in the Province under Departmental management. According to the latest measurements it covers 238.82 square miles.

The decrease in the charges of fire protection is due to the early begin-
ning of the rains in 1902.

During the last few days of this year a large part of the Massar "chi" 7,892 and the young trees up to a height of 25 feet or more were practically killed, in the village was burnt. The fire affected 5,747 acres out of 7,892 and the young trees up to a height of 25 feet or more were practically killed.

NAME OF PUNJAB.	NUMBER OF Farms.	AREA AFFECTED (in Acres).		COST OF FINE Pds. TAKEN.			
		1900-01.		1901-02.		1902-03.	
		Total.	Speci- ally pro- tected.	Total.	Speci- ally pro- tected.	Total.	Speci- ally pro- tected.
Maigan	21	29	39	363	...	363	450
Siram	21	29	39	16	12	12	452
Dhangarai	7	23	16	...	3	15	2,903
Khampur	8	19	10	...	13	13	189
Total	39	77	54	612	16	628	3,533

112. The number of fires, the areas affected and the cost of fire protection from 1929 to 1932 are shown in the following table:—

5 cases remained pending from the previous year, and of this total of 21 cases, 17 were decided, in 14 of which convictions were obtained. In five cases were pro-secuted, all of which were still pending at the end of the year.

Rs. 1,815 were expended on new buildings and Rs. 642 on repairs.

110. 8½ miles of bridge path have been constructed at a cost of Communita-
Rs. 267, and 26 miles repaired for Rs. 29S. More expenditure is necessary on tions and build-
roads to facilitate the efficient working of the Dungaonhan range.

Plan for the Dungeness range owing to the question of fuel supply. The provisions of the Kagach working plan were carried out in the main, but the lack of good sawyers still prevents the felling of the full number of trees.

676 required re-budding and 1,376 were in need of repair. The work in Khamphu is approaching completion.

Military Resources		Civilian Resources	
8-54	Deen Ismail Khan, Peshawar.	1-22	Hazara, Bamun.
...		...	
8-54	Deen Ismail Khan, Peshawar.	1-22	Bamun.
...		...	

Class.	Area in square miles.	Districts in which situated.	Class.	Area in square miles.	Districts in which situated.

107. Besides this the Province contains other forest areas classified
as follows:—

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CONTENTS.

PART I.	PAGE.	PART II.	PAGE.
GENERAL SUMMARY.		CHAPTER II.—Administration of the Land.	
Frontier Affairs	i	1. REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE—	
Frontier Militia Corps, &c.	ii	Demands and collections	7
Ordinary relations with Afghanistan	ib.	Resumptions of land revenue assignments	ib.
Condition of the people	ib.	Coercive processes for the collection of land revenue	ib.
Realization of the revenue	ib.	Advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists Loans Acts	ib.
Settlements	iii	2. SURVEYS—	
Revenue and rent paying classes	ib.	Surveys	8
Police	ib.	3. SETTLEMENTS—	
Criminal Justice	iv	Settlements	ib.
Prisons	ib.	4. LAND RECORDS—	
Civil Justice	ib.	Records of rights	ib.
Registration	ib.	Land Record establishment	ib.
District and Local Boards	v	Kanungos	ib.
Municipal Administration	ib.	Mutations	9
Agriculture	ib.	Annual records	ib.
Weather and Crops	ib.	Business returns	ib.
Forests	ib.	5. GOVERNMENT WASTE LANDS	ib.
Trade	vi	6. WARDS' ESTATES—	
Public Works	ib.	Wards' Estates	ib.
Irrigation	ib.	7. REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES—	
Revenue and Expenditure	ib.	Transfers	10
Vital Statistics	vii		
Medical Relief	ib.		
Sanitation and Vaccination	ib.		
Education	ib.		
PART II.		CHAPTER III.—Protection.	
CHAPTER I.—Political.			
1. CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION	1	1. COURSE OF LEGISLATION	11
2. FRONTIER AFFAIRS—		2. POLICE—	
<i>Hazara—</i>		General	ib.
Amb	ib.	Magistrates' cases	ib.
Black Mountain	ib.	Police cases	ib.
Utmanzais	ib.	Murders	ib.
<i>Dir, Swat and Chitral Agency—</i>		Dacoity and robbery	ib.
General	ib.	Burglaries	ib.
Sam Ranizai and Lower Swat	ib.	Counterfeiting coin	ib.
<i>Dir</i>	ib.	Arms	12
Bajau	ib.	Recovery of stolen property	ib.
Chitral	2	Bad characters	ib.
<i>Peshawar—</i>		Punitive posts	ib.
General	ib.	Outlaws	ib.
Khudu Khels	ib.	Rewards for aid rendered to the Police	ib.
Boner	ib.	Strength and cost of the Police Force	ib.
Mohmands	ib.	Discipline and health	ib.
Baezai Mohmands	ib.	Recruiting	ib.
Aka Khels	ib.	3. CRIMINAL JUSTICE—	
<i>Khyber—</i>		Crime	ib.
General	ib.	Strength of the Magistracy	ib.
Tirah	ib.	Work of the Magistracy	ib.
<i>Kohut—</i>		Results of trials in Magistrates' Courts	13
General	3	Disposal of work	ib.
Pass Afridis	ib.	Sessions Courts	ib.
Orakzais	ib.	Judicial Commissioner	ib.
Wazirs	ib.	Appeals and revisions	ib.
<i>Kurram—</i>		Punishments	ib.
General	ib.	Fines	14
Zainushts	ib.	Frontier Crimes Regulation	ib.
Massuzais	ib.	4. PRISONS—	
<i>Bannu—</i>		Convicts	ib.
General	ib.	Under-trial prisoners	ib.
Ahundzai Wazirs	ib.	Civil prisoners	ib.
Utnanzai Wazirs	ib.	Daily average Jail population	ib.
Bhittanis	4	Juvenile prisoners	ib.
<i>Tochi—</i>		Habitual offenders	ib.
Daur	ib.	Executions	ib.
Militia	ib.	Accommodation	ib.
Tribal Affairs	ib.	Establishment	15
<i>Dera Ismail Khan—</i>		Conduct and discipline	ib.
Largha Sheranis	ib.	Expenditure	ib.
Bhittanis	ib.	Employment of convicts	ib.
<i>Wana—</i>		Vital statistics	ib.
Mahsuds	ib.	5. CIVIL JUSTICE—	
Darwesh Khels	ib.	Institutions in original suits	ib.
Povindus	ib.	Value of suits	16
Militia	ib.	Nature of suits	ib.
3. CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE—		Agency for disposal of civil business	ib.
General	5	Disposal of cases	ib.

